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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/680,886	TANAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric Wong	2883	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to after final amendment 1/8/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20070205</u> 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jay Durst on 2/5/07.

The application's claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended)

a filter module comprising:

a lens through which an optical signal passes;

three optical fibers including a first, second and third optical fibers;

an optical filter that transmits the optical signal in a particular wavelength band among a wavelength multiplex optical signal and reflects the optical signal in a wavelength band other than the particular wavelength band, and

a mirror separated from the optical filter by a gap that reflects the optical signal transmitted through the optical filter,

wherein said three optical fibers are contained in the module and are arranged on a single side of said lens, wherein the first optical fiber receives the wavelength multiplex optical signal from the lens or outputs the wavelength multiplex optical signal to the lens, wherein the second optical fiber receives or outputs the optical signal reflected by the

filter, and wherein the third optical fiber receives or outputs the optical signal reflected by the mirror after transmitted through the optical filter.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended)

A demultiplexing/multiplexing unit, which is a multichannel demultiplexing/multiplexing unit formed by connecting in cascade a plurality of filter modules, wherein each of the filter modules comprises a lens through which an optical signal passes, three optical fibers including a first, second and third optical fibers, an optical filter that transmits the optical signal in a particular wavelength band among a wavelength multiplex optical signal and reflects the optical signal in a wavelength band other than the particular wavelength band, and a mirror separated from the optical filter by a gap that reflects the optical signal transmitted through the optical filter; and said three optical fibers are contained in the module and are arranged on a single side of said lens, wherein the first optical fiber receives the wavelength multiplex optical signal from the lens or outputs the wavelength multiplex optical signal to the lens, wherein the second optical fiber receives or outputs the optical signal reflected by the filter, and wherein the third optical fiber receives or outputs the optical signal reflected by the mirror after transmitted through the optical filter.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art made of record fails to explicitly disclose or reasonably suggest the optical module as claimed, specifically a mirror separated from a filter by a gap, wherein a wavelength band transmitted by

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the filter and mirror reflect to separate optical fibers. Therefore claims 1 and 7 are allowed.

Claims 2-6 and 8-11 are allowed by virtue of dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

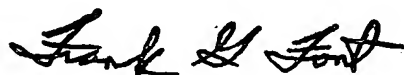
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Wong whose telephone number is 571-272-2363. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 830AM - 430PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on 571-272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



EW



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